

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 6 September 2011 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors L Cumberbatch (Mayor), M Gittus, S Adams, J Bunting, C Gough, J Kenyon, N Knapman, C Neal-Sturgess, A Brown, J Styles, W Malin, E Payne, Y Morrison, C Wright (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

One member of the public was present, and congratulated the Town Council on the progress at the pavilion.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from District and County Councillors:

Cllr Adams reported attending a number of meetings including Neighbourhood Watch and that she also intended to attend a Tourism Workshop and the NHS Warwickshire AGM both in September. Cllr Juned reported a quiet August but that Stratford District Council had met and agreed the housing supply for the next 20 years at 8,000, that £380 was collected for the Alcester Youth Project at the Celebration of Youth and the West Area Planning Committee were to meet regarding the Greig and Kinwarton Farm Road developments. Cllr Gittus also reported on the Housing supply with more detail and the West Area Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr Payne offered no report at this time.

Apologies - 010911

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), P Carr and M Cargill,

Minutes of previous meeting 02/08/11 (circulated) - 020911

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 August 2011 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Malin, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Adams and approved by council.

Declarations of Interest - 030911

No declarations of interest were received

Mayor's Report - 040911

The Mayor reported on his recent activities stating he had attended meetings on Health and Social care matters as well as spending time with Helping Hands staff regarding training and quality of care. He had also attended Alcester Horticultural Society Flower and Vegetable show where he presented prizes and the Court Leet Barbecue.

Community Committee - 050911

Cllr Gittus gave an update on Public Works stating the Environment Agency Gas House Lane Pump had now been commissioned and work was starting on the Severn Trent Tank Flood Alleviation Scheme and the road closure would continue until the 30th November and then closed again on the 3rd January until 10th February 2012. Councillors raised a number of issues with particular concern to safety regarding local traffic trying to negotiate the A46.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health issues stating the Strategic Health Authority had completed the letter which had been holding up progress and that the contractors should be on the Hospital site to start work by 22nd September.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Business Support, stating the high Street Closure for resurfacing had been a concern for High Street businesses as well as the pending Severn Trent Water flood alleviation scheme closure of Stratford Road. An Alcester Town Council representative was to attend the Tourism Workshop on 26th September.

Cllr Adams gave an update on the Town Development Working Group meeting due to take place on September 15th. She also reminded councilors about the forthcoming Heritage weekend when Globe House, St Nicholas Church, Church House and the Town Hall would be open.

Cllrs Payne and Cumberbatch gave an update on Senior Citizens issues, stating that training programmes for disabled scooters would shortly be available and ACT.com have met to consider applications for grants and an AGM would be held at the end of the month.

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Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Community Safety issues, which included information on recent lead thefts, Cyclist issues and Speed Aware possibilities.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Youth Issues stating the Celebration of Youth went well and there had been 2 meetings at the Youth Club organized by the Alcester Youth Project since. The Youth Council are due to meet at the end of the month and the Mayor has visited all five schools. Rob Townsend of Warwickshire County Council had met with Alcester Youth Project members to confirm the amount of support the Warwickshire County Council Youth Service can provide in the future.

The Mayor gave an update on Community Facilities stating that work is still ongoing at the Depot and there were some outstanding concerns.

Cllr Malin gave an update on Communication particularly regarding Surgeries and the Newsletter. Concern had been raised at the surgery regarding the stonework at the Town Hall which was deteriorating badly and suitable matches were not readily available to comply with the Building Conservation Officer.

Cllrs Cargill and Sturgess gave an update on Web Communication, in particular Face book, which now hosted a Town Council facility, which will be monitored over the coming months and a demonstration may be made at the next meeting.

Cllr Gittus gave a report on the Olympics Committee progress stating fundraising was still ongoing as was communication with various sporting bodies.

There were no Propositions to Council.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 060911

Cllr Bunting gave an update on Recreation Facilities stating the inside of the Depot had been painted by Orbit Volunteers, a pool table had been donated by Alcester Lions and furniture from Stratford District Council. The Play equipment still has issues that need to be addressed and the Committee was being asked to consider new equipment and a consultation with younger people on their ideas. Fishing platforms and a skate park had been the subject of a meeting with the Environment Agency, plans would be required before consent would be granted. A Graffiti resistant varnish was also on the market and could be considered for the Pavilion walls.

Cllr Knapamn gave an update on the Environment sub-committee stating there was a meeting planned in 3 weeks people are to be contacted.

There were no new announcements for both the Allotments and the Cemetery. The Allotment Trophies are to be sought for a fresh approach next year.

There were no Propositions to Council.

Planning Committee - 070911

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating that clearer information needs to be made available for new councilors on old applications so that the same ground need not be covered. These include the Greig and Redrow Applications both of which will be heard at the Stratford District Council West Area Planning Committee meeting on September the 8th at St Benedicts School. He also gave an update on the Town Council Stratford Road Land, stating that there was a need for a temporary solution before conditions change before a more suitable permanent one may be possible.

Cllr Gough stated the Design Statement was now complete up to a stage where it had been passed to Presidium for further consultation including Stratford District Council.

There were no Propositions to Council.

Presidium - 080911

a) Cllr Cumberbatch gave update on Globe House, stating the initial Draft Lease had been considered and issues raised with Stratford District council. The terms were understood to include no increased costs for Alcester Town Council, however the draft lease did not adequately show this. According to progress it is the intention to draw up a strategic plan for the council.

b) Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on The Greig Centre planning application which was due to go to the Stratford District Council West Area Planning Committee on 8th September.

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There will be a total of nine minutes allowed for objectors to speak, five including himself had been chosen. Alcester Ward District Councillors will also have 5 minutes each to speak.

Scrutiny - 090911

No meeting of the Scrutiny Committee had yet taken place.

Payment of Accounts - 100911

The Clerk gave a report and asked for approval by Council on Payment of Accounts for August 2011. Cllr Malin proposed it should be accepted and Cllr Gough seconded the proposal and Council approved the payment of Accounts for August.

Correspondence - 110911

The following correspondence was noted by councillors and actions agreed

- a) Letter from Boundary Commission for England
- b) Letter from SDC re grass cutting,
- c) Letter re closure of the Greig Hall
- d) Letter from National Grid
- e) CPRE magazines and annual accounts

Notification of Future Visitors - 120911

The clerk confirmed there were no firm dates for visitors at present.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130911

The Mayor made a request to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

Dates of future meetings - 140911

Councillors were asked to note the following dates for future meetings:

Community Committee Monday 12 September at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 13 September and Tuesday 27 September at 7.00pm

Forum meeting TBA

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 26 September at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium meeting TBA

Council Monday 3 October at 7.00pm